

# Leader

November 2005

Magazine for Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools



**Day of remembrance**  
**Cadets run in honor of POW/MIA Day**

*Det. 930 forms up in Marquette's Tri-ROTC Battalion for the Memorial Ceremony honoring the heroes and victims of the attacks of Sept 11, 2001. (Courtesy photo)*



# Inside

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November 2005 ■ Vol. 27 Issue 7

## Leader

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## Hurricane Katrina

Service Before Self: Cadets perform selfless acts to aid hurricane relief efforts

## POW/MIA Day

Remembering those who served before us

*Cover: From left Cadets Jessica Hackbarth and Dixie Church from Det. 250, Iowa State University, complete a leg of the 33.7-mile run Sept. 16. Thirty-two cadets took turns running the POW/MIA flag, American flag, and the proclamation from the State Capital to the campus in Ames, Iowa. (Photo by Cadet Ryan Jahnke)*

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# Thank you for your efforts

## Gen. William R. Looney III

Air Education and Training Command commander

I can not tell you how proud I am of everyone in Air Education and Training Command for your outstanding support of national recovery efforts after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast Region. Thank you.

Your hard work and generosity continue to make a significant difference. It is wonderful to know that when a crisis or disaster happens, the "First Command" is ready and willing to lean forward to help wherever needed.

Everyone stepped up to the challenge. More than 500 Air Education and Training Command members deployed to support the stateside humanitarian efforts, with thousands more volunteering their services at their base. Sixty-six people are still deployed to various locations and willing to stay as long as it takes.

Throughout the command men, women and children volunteered to help others in their time of need. Whether it was providing food, water and other supplies, or sending equipment and people to assist with recovery efforts, you did an exceptional job.

My hat goes off to everyone at Keesler AFB, Miss., and detached units who endured the wrath of Hurricane Katrina. Many experienced significant property losses. With damage to Keesler property estimated at \$800 million, you have experienced losses most of us will

never know.

Not only did you experience the wrath of the storm, but you went from being "victims" to being volunteers. Hundreds of Keesler residents, including trainees, worked countless hours getting the base back to normalcy and helping the surrounding communities recover.

Keesler has so many wonderful stories -- from a baby delivered by Caesarean section, using flashlights for illumination, to a wedding held outside one of the shelters just days after Hurricane Katrina hit. There are countless other stories of the human spirit overcoming tragedy.

Every AETC base participated in helping those in need, and some are still assisting recovery efforts.

Our air lift at Altus AFB, Okla., and Little Rock AFB, Ark., transported almost 1.7 million pounds of humanitarian aid, as well as equipment and people to support recovery efforts. Little Rock was also selected to be the hub for international aid and coordinated the logistics for nearly 4 million pounds of humanitarian aid from countries around the globe.

We set up the Federal Emergency Management Agency at Maxwell AFB, Ala., as the distribution point for supplies and equipment being sent to areas affected by the hurricanes.

Lackland AFB partnered with the city of San Antonio to shelter and care for more than 10,000 people



displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These efforts included helping off-load passengers airlifted to the base, providing medical assistance, and transporting displaced persons to shelters and hospitals around the city.

Several other AETC bases housed those displaced by the hurricane. Many of our folks even opened their homes to those in need. Others left their homes and families to go where their skills were needed.

We are truly blessed in AETC to have such highly motivated, talented and dedicated warriors who make it happen every day.

I could not be more proud of the people in this great command. Thank you and keep up the great work. ■

# Cadets impact Hurricane Katrina relief efforts

**Brig. Gen. Ronnie D. Hawkins Jr.**  
AFOATS commander

**H**urricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast with deadly effect in September. That event and the following days were a time of tragedy and heartache for Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana residents and all those affected by the hurricane. Many people lost their homes, their possessions and even their lives.

Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools did not escape the destruction. Thirty Air Force Junior ROTC units located in high schools in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama were affected, and five of the 30 high schools are awaiting repairs to reopen. Four Air Force ROTC detachments within the area were affected by the hurricane with Tulane University in New Orleans being hit the hardest.

For weeks, we followed the turmoil and chaos on the nightly news, as the pictures, video and stories coming from the affected region got worse and worse. The aftermath showed us not only the ugly side of nature, but also the ugly side of humanity. We saw footage of the looting and vandalism, shootings and corruption. We heard stories of people taking advantage of others' suffering for



their own benefit.

That inhumanity would have been heartbreaking if the story had ended there. It didn't.

Americans came together after this tragedy in a remarkable way. Organizations across the United States worked tirelessly to help the hurricane victims. As is often the case, the military was out in front. I am proud to say that members of the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools organizations: Officer Training School, Air Force ROTC and JROTC, contributed enormously. Members helped in many ways – from organizing fund-raisers, donating food and clothes and opening their doors to

displaced persons to actually going to the affected region to take part in relief efforts. As individuals, as teams and as organizations, you answered the call.

This issue of the Leader is dedicated to you. The stories of our folks – our heroes – are still coming in, and I'm sure there are stories out there we might never hear about. Whether you receive recognition or not, know that I am proud of you. We ask you to give service before self, and you consistently respond by the ingenuity and dedication you show when applying that core value. You have made a tremendous difference. Thank you.

# One cadets thanks his fellow comrades

**Cadet Matt Ockwood**

Det. 805, Texas A&M University, Texas

## To all cadets:

I have realized over the last day that there is no possible way for me to adequately thank you for your actions. I have also realized that any thanks at all is more than you require for the time and hard work you gave to those in need the first weekend after Hurricane Katrina came onshore.

It is precisely for that reason that I am so overwhelmingly proud of you, and am so honored to be the corps commander of Det. 805 – the finest students on campus. Truly, no other group of students, on any campus, could have pulled so many people together in just two hours, with out any solid information or prospect of success. Your actions over the last weekend have demonstrated a level of spirit and love for others that cannot be matched on any other campus.

As I have talked to those refugees living in Reed over the last two days, I have received compliment after compliment of you all. One man told me that as soon as he found out he was being taken to College Station he announced to everyone on his bus that everything was going to be okay because

they were going to the Texas Army and Marine College and we'd have everything under control. He may have been confused about what A&M stood for, but there was no question in his mind when he pulled up to Reed and saw all of you that things were definitely in control. The people that you all helped off of those buses have been through hardship that we cannot possibly imagine. A little boy name Chris told me that we were his heroes, and he wanted to grow up to be just like us.

We have changed lives. Without complaint, after being asked only for help, the corps of cadets has proven to the nation that it is the finest group of young men and women in Texas, and rest assured that the 208 evacuees in Reed will never forget what you've done.

Dr. Robert Gates, Texas A&M University president, was choked up when he spoke of his love for the corps just over a week ago. Yesterday afternoon, as I showed him around Reed Arena and he saw all of you, he was again choked up as you spoke to him through your actions and attitudes. He expressed that there was no limit to his gratefulness to our organization.

You may not believe this, but I saw retired Army Col. Jake Betty, deputy commandant of corps of cadets, and Army retired Lt. Gen. John A Van Alstyne's, commandant of corps of cadets, eyes fill with the beginnings of tears yesterday afternoon. Our commandant is always proud of us – but never in four years has he been moved like this. As he looked around Reed Arena at the hundreds of cadets, who despite working hours on end, were playing on their hands and knees with five year old victims of an American tragedy, I could see his chest swell with pride in an attempt to avoid choking up. There is no greater gift that you could have given and he knows it.

There is no way of knowing what will come next in life, but one thing is certain: the Aggie Spirit, and the corps of cadets will be there to help when times are rough. That is what we do. Sacrifice and service are the uncommon virtues which run through these dorms. I am humbled by your relentless willingness to help, and I am proud to be called a member of this body of cadets.

With sincerest thanks,

Matt Ockwood

Det. 805 corps commander

# Louisiana cadets support evacuation hospital

**By Capt. John Thomas**

Det. 310, Louisiana State University



*Courtesy photo*

*From left Cadets Pete Hilleren and Chris Hesse receive the day's instructions at the medical triage center from Maj. Chad Segura, Det. 310 commandant of cadets.*

Air Force ROTC and Junior ROTC cadets across the country supported Hurricane Katrina evacuees through donations, fund-raisers and telethons. In the instance of the ROTC cadets at Louisiana State University here, they sprang into action to set up a unit control center and to assist in relief efforts from Aug. 30 – Sept. 5.

As Katrina came ashore, Baton Rouge felt the storm's powerful winds uproot trees and knock out power across the town. Hurricane Katrina had done her worse and Baton Rouge, saved from a direct hit, survived. The day after the storm, the cadre of Det. 310 reported to work to assess the limited damage and begin the clean-up efforts.

Then, the unexpected occurred. Pounded by the relentless wind, rain, and storm surge of Hurricane Katrina, the levee and pump systems in New Orleans failed and flood waters from Lake Pontchartrain poured into Louisiana's largest city. Suddenly, those who believed the worst had past found themselves seeking higher ground away from the rising water. As the water rose in New Orleans, it created a new flood of evacuees who poured into Baton Rouge to escape disaster.

Louisiana government officials quickly recognized the seriousness of the situation and they selected Louisiana State University as the staging area for evacuees and patients needing medical care. The LSU community, including the cadets and cadre of Det. 310, sprang into action. Det. 310 established a unit control center to organize cadet volunteer efforts, ensure safety and teach the cadets about command and control. Members of the cadet-manned UCC collected the necessary

communications equipment to contact all cadets to ask for relief volunteers on the LSU campus.

The cadets responded. In fact, participation was not limited to Air Force cadets. Cadets from LSU's Army ROTC, members of Silver Wings, an affiliate of Air Force Association, and Scotch Guard personnel, an affiliate of Army ROTC, also assisted the relief efforts organized by Det. 310. Many of the cadets who volunteered for relief efforts were from areas ravaged by the hurricane – some with no word from their families.

"I grew up in New Orleans and to be honest, I am still not sure if the magnitude of the event has set in yet. I really did not think about it much while I was helping out. I was more worried about just getting the job done. It is starting to sink in now that I have distanced myself from the relief effort," said Cadet Brian Dendy.

With the UCC operational, the team set up 24-hour operations. Volunteers worked 8- or 12-hour shifts at one of the facilities on campus used in relief operations.

LSU officials assigned several buildings on campus to support the relief efforts. The Maddox Field House was set up as a shelter for individuals with special needs. The Huey Long Field House was designated as a donation collection center and provided clothes, bedding, and water to evacuees until relief efforts ended. The Pete Maravich Assembly Center transformed overnight from LSU's basketball arena into an emergency medical triage center.

Many of New Orleans' most critically injured passed through the assembly center on their way to other hospitals in the area.

Working with Department of Health officials, the cadets provided key support for medical operations and volunteers. Led by the senior ROTC cadets, the cadets established a supply area to aid in the logistical support of deliveries, built shelves, organized supplies for quicker access and kept them stocked. The volunteers who worked at the supply area were lauded by Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Health officials for directly impacting the medical providers' ability to save lives.

"Watching how (the cadets) organized independently, just proves that the curriculum and objectives in ROTC is pretty effective at teaching them what they will need as officers," said Col. Kenneth Bankston, Air Force ROTC Det. 310 commander.

Cadets also feel that their training in ROTC helped prepare them for leadership roles.

"During the chaos of it all, nearly everyone (from the various agencies) was looking for leadership. Several cadets had no problem stepping up to the challenge of being a leader in the relief effort in one way or another. I know that I am going to focus more on developing myself as a leader because I have seen the importance of leadership in a real-life situation," said Cadet Dendy.

Hurricane Katrina left a path of destruction that forever changed the lives of many in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast Region. Despite the destructive power of the hurricane however, the members of Det. 310 proved that Airmen are always ready to face challenges head on and provide solutions that protect the citizens of the United States. ■



# Back from Biloxi

**By Chuck Frederick**

Duluth News Tribune

**B**ack at her old school in Hermantown today, 2nd Lt. Jessica Bjorlin, 23, will tell students how she slept on the floor with dozens of strangers, how the windows had to be boarded up against Hurricane Katrina, and how terrified she was at the horrors she could only imagine outside.

She'll also tell them how guilty she feels now as a survivor of a storm that ravaged two states, killed hundreds of people and left thousands of others homeless across the Gulf Coast.

"I feel so bad. I left other people sleeping on the hard floors," said Lieutenant Bjorlin. She was training at a base in Biloxi, Miss., when she got caught in Katrina's destructive path.

"I feel so guilty sleeping in my bed now," she said. "I know I'm not as attached to material things anymore because of this. I'm more of a compassionate person now."

Bjorlin — a track athlete and a softball, basketball and soccer player at Hermantown High School before graduating in 2001 — returned home six days after the Aug. 29 storm.

She's participated in a 12-day recruiter assistance program with the ROTC at the University of Minnesota Duluth and afterward left for Turkey in July where she's a finance officer.

It's a job she'll have to learn on the fly. Her training was cut short at Biloxi's Keesler Air Force Base.

On Aug. 28, with Katrina's landfall forecast overnight, Bjorlin and about 6,000 others on the base were ordered into seven classroom buildings that had been designated as shelters. She took what she could carry: a sleeping bag, pil-

low, three changes of clothes, toiletries, her cell phone, a camera and food.

An estimated 1,000 people huddled inside her building, with about 25 in the classroom where she was assigned. The desks had been removed, the computers pushed toward outer walls.

Overnight Sunday, the wind howled at the boarded-up windows. It sounded like a freight train, Bjorlin said, surprised at the accuracy of the cliché.

"Sunday was kind of scary. You knew when you woke up the worst was going to happen," she said. "Then in the morning, things started leaking everywhere and you wondered whether the building was going to hold. The not knowing when you might be able to get out was difficult, too. It was really, really hard on people."

Not as hard or difficult as many had it, she quickly added. "We had it good compared to everyone else," she said. Her building had water and Meals Ready to Eat. The power went out that Monday morning while base residents scrambled to patch the leaking roofs, ceilings and walls. Generators turned on, but only in the hallways.

In the days that followed, Bjorlin volunteered to help run the shelter. She hauled garbage and mopped floors. She and others passed time by playing board games.

She wasn't able to call home until Monday, nearly a full day after the storm had hit. She waited in a long line to use a working base phone and to deliver the news her parents, two younger brothers and little sister longed to hear: She was all right.

"We knew we wouldn't have any con-

tact with her until after the storm blew over," said her father, Dean Bjorlin. "In my mind, I knew God was going to take care of her. In my mind and heart I knew that. But at the same time, you can't wait to hear her voice again that she's OK."

His daughter's brief phone call came at about 8:30 p.m. "It was a joyous relief," Dean Bjorlin said.

After five nights and six days in the classroom-turned-shelter and amid reports of shootings, carjackings, gas-siphoning and a survival-of-the-fittest mentality outside her Biloxi base, Bjorlin gassed up and pointed her Mazda 626 north. She saw President Bush's caravan as he arrived on base to survey damage in the region. She snapped photos of downed trees. And she gasped at the sight of gutted, flood-drenched homes and cars abandoned, presumably, when they ran out of gas.

"I will never complain about gas prices again," she said. "That is the worst feeling I've ever had in my life, that not knowing whether there'll even be gas at the gas stations."

An hour or two north, the landscape began to return to normal.

"It was weird," Bjorlin said. "It was like nothing ever happened. You wanted to stop at every gas station just because they had gas. You were so paranoid."

"It felt so good to be going home," she said.

She arrived in Duluth on Sunday morning, Sept. 4.

"I pulled into church and that's where I saw my family for the first time," she said, referring to Duluth Gospel Tabernacle. "What a great place to be after such a devastating experience." ■



# Hurricane Katrina can't stop commissioning

Det. 320, Tulane University, La.

**H**urricane Katrina caused massive disruptions along the Gulf Coast, but she could not stop Det. 320 from commissioning Cadet Yvette Trahan, a Tulane University Law School graduate, Oct. 4.

Although cadre members were evacuated to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and Cadet Trahan was salvaging what she could after her parent's home was flooded, the headquarters gave the green light to proceed with the commissioning.

The original plan called for another detachment to perform the ceremony, but that plan was quickly vetoed.

"Lieutenant Trahan deserved our very best effort. She committed to our detachment, and we were committed to her. Nothing was going to keep us from commissioning her," said Col. Benjamin Anderson, Det. 320 commander.

Capt. Jarrod Suire and Staff Sgt. Valerie Franklin hurried back to New Orleans to conduct the ceremony at the Belle Chase Naval Reserve Base, La. TAs her parents and grandparents watched, Cadet Trahan became an officer in the

Air Force. And with that, Det. 320 began the long journey to rebuild

their detachment and help restore the city of New Orleans. ■



Photo by Staff Sgt. Valerie Hill

*Capt. Jarrod Suire commissions Cadet Yvette Trahan Oct. 4 at Belle Chase Naval Reserve Base, La. Captain Suire and Staff Sgt. Valerie Franklin, who were evacuated to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., during Hurricane Katrina, traveled back to New Orleans to conduct the commissioning ceremony.*

# Cadets deliver a truck load of supplies

**By Cadet Karl Deren**

Det. 157, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla.

**A**fter Hurricane Katrina struck a devastating blow to the northern Gulf Coast, Det. 157 of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University took an different angle of attack at garnering supplies to aid the relief effort.

Moved by the amount of human suffering, Cadet Joseph Stenger obtained a 53' tractor-trailer and an experienced driver. The goal from that point forth was to fill the truck within 72 hours with supplies, namely water, and send it to the disaster area. In support of the mission, 50 cadets went door-to-door Sept. 3 to ask businesses to donate

both money and supplies.

Cadets also met with Embry Riddle representatives who embraced the endeavor by granting approval and support for this tremendous task.

After two days of talking to local businesses, the cadets raised more than \$11,000 in money and supplies. They loaded the supplies into the truck Sept. 7, and the supplies reached the affected regions Sept. 9.

From this experience, the cadets of Det. 157 learned that great personal growth and satisfaction can come from placing Service Before Self. ■



*Det. 157 cadets filled a 53' tractor-trailor with hurricane relief donations and supplies from local businesses Sept. 3.*

*Courtesy photos*

# Cadet exhibits “cut-above” qualities through rescue efforts

Det. 425, Mississippi State University, Miss.

**E**ver since Hurricane Katrina rolled upon the shores of the Gulf Coast, the nation has made relief efforts to provide victims with water, food and medical attention.

Some people have set aside their everyday responsibilities to travel to the affected area and physically help with the aftermath.

Charlie Hill, a Mississippi State University cadet, left school Sept. 3 to volunteer his skills to assist the recovery efforts.

One of the challenges that hindered recovery efforts was navigating since road signs and other landmarks were missing or otherwise unusable – the people of New Orleans could

get lost in their own neighborhoods. Recovery of civil network elements such as communication, transportation, security and general emergency services had to rely upon the use of geospatial technology. Geospatial technology allows specialists to match satellite photos with global positioning systems coordinates.

Cadet Hill, an electrical engineering student, has worked in the GeoResources Institute on campus researching and working with geospatial technologies for the past five years.

He has developed technical skills in satellite image analysis, operation of global positioning systems and geographic information system development.

His team was originally assigned to work out of flat-bottom boats to locate storm casualties for coroner retrieval, but their initial objective was altered as the needs of the emergency operations center changed from locating casualties to digitally mapping address locations for search and rescue operations performed by the Civil Air Patrol and the United States Coast Guard.

Cadet Hill's ability to collect 911 information, convert it into a database and transmit it via GPS helped aid in approximately 300 successful rescue missions. His team's efforts left behind thousands of data entries still being used today in recovery efforts. ■

## Cadets dig deep for hurricane relief

**By Cadet Daniel Stancin**

Det. 040, Loyola Marymount University, Calif.

A group of 20 Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings members approached hurricane relief in an unusual fashion. The two teams of 10 set out for the Westchester suburbs and Loyola Marymount University, Calif., campus Sept. 24 to search for recyclable items within the community that people were willing to donate to hurricane relief.

The competition was a race to the finish with Team America getting an early lead, while Team Commando stayed behind and etched out a plan of attack. Team Commando decided to go out to Gonzaga Street and col-

lect discarded bottles, while Team America chose to stay in the realm of college life, and salvage all the recyclables offered in the freshmen dorms.

With only a one-hour time limit, Team Commando struggled for success. However, near the end, they scored big at a dumpster with a trash bag full of recyclables. Curious citizens called out from windows and cars. They also pitched in and grabbed empty bottles for the cadets. With little time left, Team Commando sped back to base with five trash bags of recyclable items. The team was to meet another cadet with more bags

back at base.

When Team Commando finally returned, they were stunned to see the victor, Team America, sitting on a jackpot of eight bags of recyclables. The cadets celebrated as they the real winner was hurricane relief.

In the spirit of “Service Before Self,” these outstanding cadets and supporters banded together, and in one hour, gathered enough discarded trash to raise more than \$60 for hurricane survivors. Not only did they help save the environment, but they also aided in improvement of the living conditions of the less fortunate. ■

# Every little bit helps

**By Cadet Justin Deifel**

Det. 550, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, N.Y.



Photo by Cadet Andrew Acer

**D**et. 550 cadets at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute raised money for Air Force victims of Hurricane Katrina in a campus-wide fund-raiser Sept. 19 – 23. Over a five-day period, 50 cadets

manned tables around campus to collect donations. Organized by the Jack Newkirk Squadron of Arnold Air Society, the cadets raised more than \$200 and donated all of the proceeds to the Air Force Aid Society.

Above: Cadets Craig Poulin and Shalin Namazi collect a donation in September from an Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute student to benefit the Air Force Aid Society's efforts in supporting Hurricane Katrina victims. ■



# One bag at a time

## Cadets collect hurricane relief items

**By Cadet Jorge Padro**

Det. 790, Tennessee State University, Tenn.

Air Force ROTC and Junior ROTC cadets are trained in various aspects of leadership, followership and professional development.

Det. 790 cadets demonstrated these aspects during the recent Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

It all began with news of the devastation left in the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the cadets' desire to make a difference.

Det. 790 cadets from Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee Technological University, Western Kentucky University, David Lipscomb University and Vanderbilt University implemented relief efforts at their campuses in the form of clothing, food and monetary donation drives from Sept. 12 – 16.

The detachment was able to collect 17 large trash and grocery-sized bags of clothing, 14 bags of non-perishable foods and a monetary donation in the course of one week. The cadets then delivered the donations Sept. 23 to various charity organizations for direct shipment to the citizens affected by the hurricane. ■



*Photo by Cadet Jordan Brown*

*Cadet Jordan Brown hauls bags of clothing to an awaiting vehicle for delivery to a local Salvation Army, while Cadet Alonso Wilson returns to the warehouse to gather more bags. Det. 790 cadets collected 17 large trash and grocery-sized bags of clothing, 14 bags of non-perishable foods and a monetary donation Sept. 12 – 16 to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina.*

# Every penny counts

Det. 088, California State University-Sacramento, Calif.



*Courtesy photo*

Det. 088 cadets collected pennies to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina on Sept. 15 – 28. Cadet Sandra Keeler came up with the idea of Penny Wars to allow the detachment's flights and wing staff to participate in a hurricane relief

fund-raiser. Each penny collected is a point, while other coins and bills are negative points toward the flight's overall score.

The detachment has raised more than \$130. In the spirit of competition, the flight that earns the least

amount of points in Penny Wars will perform a motivational physical training.

Above: Cadets Jose Mendez and Kelli Walker count the donations in each flight's donation can in September. ■

# Georgia fans donate to relief fund

**By Cadet Rhoda Lazo**

Det 160, University of Georgia, Ga.

**F**or many Georgia fans, Sept. 3 was a highly anticipated day: the kick off of the first home game of football at the University of Georgia. For some members of Arnold Air Society, it represented another opportunity to collect donations for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

Arnold Air Society, an honorary, professional service organization within Air Force ROTC, and various other student organizations on campus, dedicated a part of their

day to help raise donations from generous students, faculty, visitors and alumni.

As fans tailgated and flashed miscellaneous football memorabilia on game day, Air Force ROTC cadets collected donations from people of all ages.

"A lot of motivated people were walking around us saying how they wished they could do something or could be involved – we were the medium between the two," said Cadet Mike McConnell, an Arnold

Air Society member.

In less than six hours, the cadets were able to generate more than \$2,000 in donations from generous fans. Also present that day, were Cadets Rhoda Lazo, Sarah Kline, Christopher Smoak, Axel Gonzalez, Marvin Hinkson and Brandon Buckner.

Det. 160 alone has currently collected about \$6,000, and all of the proceeds will go directly to the American Red Cross to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. ■



*Courtesy photo*

*Cadet Mike McConnell collects funds from a fellow student.*

# Lending a helping hand

**By Cadet Shane Kinsman**

Det. 842, University of Texas-San Antonio, Texas

On Sunday, 18 September 2005, the United States The Air Force celebrated its 58<sup>th</sup> birthday and at that same time a group of students from the University of Texas-San Antonio learned just how proud it was to be part of the Air Force family.

Weeks before the Air Force's birthday, the southern coastline of the United States was hit with a natural disaster that left thousands homeless without food, water or clothing. Within a week of Hurricane Katrina, thousands of evacuees were on their way to San Antonio to find comfort and help from this great storm.

Kelly USA, formerly known as Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, became one of the main staging grounds for

evacuees. The residents of San Antonio and Det. 842 cadets were ready to assist the evacuees.

Within 24 hours of evacuees arriving in San Antonio, more than 50 members of Det. 842 were setting up the evacuee lodging area Sept. 2. They set up military cots three feet apart with limited blankets and pillows to comfort evacuees.

In a warehouse run by the Salvation Army, hundreds of volunteers including Det. 842 cadets wiped the sweat off of their foreheads as they sorted through tons of donated goods and loaded hundreds of crates full of water, food, clothing and toys to be distributed next door where more than 8,000 evacuees slept, ate and

showered.

More than half a million bottles of water went through the warehouse and were distributed. Each day volunteers served about 8,000 meals and gave 4,000 clothing items to people. Volunteers sorted and loaded more than 2,000 crates were. Each crate was about four feet high and filled with baby diapers, hygiene items, food, clothing, bedding, toys and school supplies.

As the clean ups began and lives were starting over the Texas/Louisiana coast fell dead silent at the news of yet another hurricane soon to hit, but this time they were be prepared. Volunteers once again stood up ready to help. ■



*Cadets load a pallet of water for evacuees Sept. 2 at Kelly USA, Texas.*

*Courtesy photo*



# Football and fund-raising: a winning combination

By Cadet Jessenia Ramos

MA-20022 William J. Dean Technical High School

**D**ean Technical High School's Junior ROTC collected money since the beginning of September to donate to the American Red Cross Relief Fund.

"The devastation from Hurricane Katrina was felt from all the Junior ROTC cadets and have compelled them to help the hurricane victims"

said retired Maj. William Kieda, a senior aerospace science instructor.

In addition to collecting money during lunch periods, the cadets also worked during football games. Cadets have worked during their lunch period for more than 20 hours collecting money for the relief fund. Also, the cadets have volunteered more than 10 hours at football games.

MA-20022 cadets raised more than \$200, and they worked more than 100 hours.

The cadets planned a Dollar Day fund-raiser Oct. 17 in which each student in the school brought \$1 for the Hurricane Katrina relief fund.

"The cadets have pride and accomplishment in meeting this challenge," said Mr. Kieda. ■

## Cadets contribute to relief fund

NE-771, Bellevue West High School, Neb.



*Courtesy photo*

Bellevue West Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets Nikki Lefavre and Keith McGuffy present a Hurricane Katrina relief check Sept. 28 to Ca-

mille Gerber, a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans accountant. Thrivent Financial contributed an additional \$525 to the \$1,050 the

cadets raised. The combined donation will be presented to the Salvation Army to assist Hurricane Katrina victims. ■

# One dollar at a time

## Cadets raise money, collect goods

ME-891, Lewiston High School, Maine

**H**urricane Katrina has come and gone, and the devastation it caused has left thousands of people without homes, missing family members and destroyed lives. This tragic outcome has encouraged people and organizations throughout the country to donate money, food, water, clothing and

other necessities to help the cause.

ME-891 cadets led Lewiston High School in an effort to raise money and collect non-perishable goods for the Hurricane Katrina relief fund. The fund-raiser started Sept. 13 and continued for two weeks.

Cadets collected loose change and donations from fellow students and teachers in the lunch room of the

high school. They also set up drop off points for non-perishable food and water. The group collected \$845 and several boxes of food products.

"Thank you Air Force Junior ROTC for leading this cause and raising not only the money, but also the awareness of the catastrophe," said Dr. Patrick O'Neill, the school principal. ■



Courtesy photo

*Cadets Jasmine Trumble and Michael Poliquin insert donations they collected from fellow cadets and students in September.*

# Cadets answer donation calls

AK-20001, Ben Eielson Junior Senior High School, Alaska



*Courtesy photo*

**C**adets from AK-20001 answered phones Sept. 5 during a Labor Day Telethon.

The cadets also held a penny drive, a fund-raising competition between the flights. The drive raised more

than \$750 to donate to the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. ■

## NEWS: *Around the nation*

PA-771, Coatesville Area Senior High School, Pa.

PA-771 conducted a car wash and bucket brigade collection in support of Hurricane Katrina relief Sept. 3.

The cadets collected \$1,185 which will be donated to the American Red Cross. ■

TX-20025, W. Charles Akins High School, Texas

TX-20025 had a dual memorial service Sept. 12 at the school to honor Sept. 11 victims and Katrina victims. The memorial included a Sept. 11 wreath with a picture of Army Sgt. 1st Class Jose Calderon-Olmedo who was

killed at the Pentagon, and a second wreath with the state flags of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama to honor Hurricane Katrina victims in those states. Students, faculty and staff were in attendance. ■

GR-071, Wiesbaden, Germany

GR-071 at Gen. HH Arnold High School in Wiesbaden, Germany, conducted a fund-raiser Sept. 10 for Hurricane Katrina victims at the Hainerberg post exchange.

The cadets collected \$4,215.34 in six hours.

Right: GR-071 cadets stand outside the Hainerberg post exchange Sept. 10 to collect funds for Hurricane Katrina victims. ■



# Det. 250 honors POW/MIAs

**By Cadet Matt Douglas**

Det. 250, Iowa State University, Iowa

Every year, Det. 250 cadets recognize prisoners of war and those who are missing in action.

"Not only did many prisoners of war give up their lives, but they spent their last days captured by an enemy. They gave up their freedom. It's our duty to honor these fallen service members," said Cadet Louis Kishkunas.

The day included a proclamation ceremony held at the state capitol in Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 16. The proclamation declaring POW/MIA Day within the state was signed by Iowa Governor Thomas Vilsack and read by the Iowa State director of Veterans Affairs, Patrick Palmershein. It was noted that there are 28 Iowans still unaccounted for from

Des Moines.

After the reading of the proclamation, 32 cadets took turns running the POW/MIA flag, American flag, and the proclamation from the State Capital to the campus in Ames, Iowa. The 33.7 mile run took the cadets through three counties with a full police escort. The cadets put the proclamation in the Gold Star Hall at the Memorial Union, a memorial dedicated to all Iowa State students or alumni who have died in past conflicts.

Shortly after the cadets with the proclamation arrived back at the university, guest speaker State Senator and Army Reserve Maj. Chuck Larson talked to the cadets. Senator Larson sacrificed his State Senate

seat when he was called up to serve in Iraq. He gave a slide show presentation and talked about the projects in which he participated during his one year tour in Iraq. His speech showed the importance of cooperation between the different military services and how that has been a key to operations in Iraq.

Det. 250 finished the day with a retreat ceremony to honor all the POW/MIAs who have given so much to our freedom. Families of those unaccounted for attended the ceremony and expressed appreciation for what the cadets did on this special day. POW/MIA Day is held only once a year, but the American Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors are never forgotten. ■



Photo by Cadet Ryan Jahnke

*Det. 250 cadets stand in front of the Reflection of Hope wall at the Iowa State Capitol with Patrick Palmershein, Iowa State director of Veterans Affairs, Sept. 16 with the proclamation before starting a 33.7 mile run from the capitol to the Iowa State University campus.*



# Det. 592 holds POW/MIA & Air Force Birthday Warrior Run

Det. 592, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, N.C.

**D**et. 592 cadets and cadre embarked on a 24-hour run to honor POW/MIA and to celebrate the Air Force's 58th birthday Sept. 15.

The cadet wing formed into three groups. Each group chanted jodies while running across the entire campus to celebrate the Air Force birthday.

Later, the local Air Power Support Organization took over and began

a continuous, 24-hour run, which was broken up into shifts of 4 cadets. Two cadets ran while two stayed at the POW/MIA table at the center of campus.

At the POW/MIA table, the cadets handed out black ribbons for the college students and faculty to wear in support of the event – and read off the names of the thousands of POW/MIA.

“The message I wanted to convey was for the cadets to take time out of

their day to think about POW/MIA, to understand the seriousness of what America has been faced with in the past and for the University of North Carolina-Charlotte campus to take time to see the cause that we were running for,” said Cadet Meredith McKinney, the cadet wing commander.

The run consisted of 95 people running for 24-hours, traveling a total of 465 miles in an effort to remember POW/MIA. ■



*Courtesy photo*

*Cadet Walter Palumbo carries the guidon as Det. 592 cadets run across the campus to celebrate the Air Force birthday Sept. 15.*

# Cadets remember

**By Cadet Abigail Rouse**

Det. 220, Purdue University, Ind.

**D**et. 220 cadets honored prisoners of war and those missing in action through a replica POW prison camp and a POW/MIA run.

The Arnold Air Society set up a POW cage on Purdue University's campus in West Lafayette, Ind. Cadet Patrick Dixon patrolled a one-hour shift as he noted the various looks of pain and respect from cadet and civilian students alike.

"I think everyone was sympathetic and had a newfound respect for POWs and MIAs," said Cadet Dixon during the POW/MIA vigil at the cage Sept. 15. He began his reflection on those who came before him by acting as a guard.

The cadets continued the day of remembrance with a candlelight vigil.

"A letter of a Civil War POW was read. The POW was a Confederate held just north of Indianapolis in a POW camp," said Cadet Dixon.

After the letter, there was a moment of silence and a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Code of Conduct.

The next day, cadets donned their physical training uniform and headed to Purdue University's Intramural Gold Fields to participate in the tri-service Prisoners Of War/Missing In Action run.

"Seeing all the services come together striving for one goal helps me realize why the United States has the

best military in the world," said Cadet Curtis Medve.

Det. 220 cadets started the event with stretching and light calisthenics at 5:45 a.m. The Marine ROTC led the run, followed by Navy ROTC, Army ROTC, and then Air Force ROTC.

"I knew why we were doing the run. It is our way of showing respect and gratitude for the men who had to suffer for our freedoms," said Cadet Medve.

The event also included a moment of silence as each Airman-, Soldier-, Sailor- or Marine-in-training remembered the missing and the imprisoned, each one knowing he or she may be in the same scenario one day. ■



Photo by Cadet Sara Wonnacott

*Cadet Brittany Wingfield stays warm while spending a shift in the bamboo POW cage Sept. 15. The POW/MIA vigil included an around the clock vigil, cage, and a candle-light ceremony.*

# Cadets hold POW/MIA vigil

Det. 425, Mississippi State University, Miss.

Det. 425 held a 24-hour candlelight vigil in Mississippi State University's Chapel of Memories honoring the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack and American POW/MIA, Sept. 16.

Cadet Shawn Forbes marched up to the podium and read the names of Sept. 11 victims, then he proceeded to the front of the chapel to perform a changing of the guard ceremony.

Each volunteer cadet marched back and forth carrying a rifle in front of the lit candle in 15-minute shifts. Each new cadet read off names of Sept. 11 victims before he took his post. The vigil started at 8 a.m. Sept. 16 and ended the following morning at 8 a.m.

The cadets read more than 3,000 names and performed 96 changing of the guard ceremonies.

The chapel was open to those who wanted to pay their respects, meditate, pray or observe. The cadets repeated their steps, marking the eternal vigilance of the military for our country. A single lit candle represented lives and members of persons gone before, and a single red rose and yellow ribbon represented those who have served the nation and passed away.

Cadet Joey Beachum, the POW/MIA vigil coordinator, was a sophomore in high school when the attack on the World Trade Center shattered the world he knew. "You go through your teenage years not being aware of the world outside your microcosm – but Sept. 11 changed that," said Cadet Beachum. The events of Sept. 11 prompted him to enroll in Air Force ROTC at Mississippi State.

"I think a significant portion of the cadets would agree that it was part of their motivation for joining," said Cadet Beachum. ■



Photo courtesy of Starkville Daily News



# Running with a purpose:

## Cadets run in honor of POW/MIA Day

Det. 840, Texas State University-San Marcos, Texas

The Interstate 35 corridor between San Marcos, Texas, and San Antonio was the scene of the first POW/MIA run sponsored by Det. 840.

More than 30 members of the Det. 840 cadet corps and cadre took turns running in pairs, carrying the POW/MIA flag Sept. 16. The university police escorted them along the 22-mile run on a busy strip of road.

As each pair ran a mile leg, they were met by cheers of encouragement by pedestrians and honking of horns by rush-hour traffic vehicles as they passed through town and along the frontage road.

The event began at the center of campus with a small ceremony and presentation of the colors. San Marcos Vietnam veteran Richard Cruz gave the opening remarks along with Det. 840 commander, Col. Daryl Hausmann. Cruz then handed the POW/MIA flag to Hausmann and the trek began.

The course snaked through campus and along the busy streets of downtown San Marcos until hitting the frontage road of I-35. The runners followed the frontage road south, in the direction of San Antonio, for 11 miles up and down



*Courtesy photo*

*Cadet Eric Ornelas holds the POW/MIA flag while running along side Cadet John Harris Sept. 16.*

gradual hills. Twelve veterans from the local American Legion gathered along with the runners at the memorial for a closing ceremony. The day concluded with veterans raising the colors while playing taps, followed by cadets performing POW/MIA push-ups in silence.

"This is definitely something we

have to keep doing," said Cadet Jorge Ramirez, the event coordinator. "We had a lot of recognition by people passing by. The time of day (rush hour) was perfect to increase awareness. Next year, we hope to get more veterans from the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars to participate." ■

## A run to remember

Det 290, University of Kentucky, Ky.

In recognition of POW/MIA day cadets and cadre from Det. 290 completed a 28-mile run from the University of Kentucky campus in Lexington, Ky., to the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial in Frankfort, Ky. The cadets and cadre took turns carrying both the United States and POW/MIA flags down the back roads of the Bluegrass

State's horse country. Then cadets completed the short ceremony by laying a wreath at the foot of the monument and observing a moment of silence. ■



# Korean War veteran visits cadets

AZ-931, Mesa High School, Ariz.

Mesa High School Junior ROTC cadets met Korean Veteran and former prisoner of war retired Army Maj. Arden Rowley at school in May. Major Rowley was fighting in the Korean War with the 2nd Engineering Battalion when his unit was captured. He shared with the cadets his 33-month ordeal as a prisoner of war. He described how prisoners of war had to fight extreme hardships due to the elements and the lack of food and hygiene. He also expressed his heartfelt concern that this country has paid a huge price to protect our freedom and how as a society we need to understand that "Freedom is not Free." He encouraged the cadets to remember every time they state the pledge of allegiance to never forget all those before them who fought to preserve our Constitution.



*Courtesy photo*

*Cadet Angela Rivera hands an Air Force coin to retired Army Maj. Arden Rowley in appreciation for his visit in May. Major Rowley was a prisoner of war during the Korean War.*

## Cadets celebrate POW/MIA Day

**By Cadet Samantha N. Gaskill**

TX-20009, Medina Valley High School, Texas

Cadets from the TX-20009 Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet Operations Group performed five color guards and flag raising ceremonies to commemorate Prisoner of War/Missing in Action National Recognition Day, Sept. 16. Their first presentation was at the St. Louis School in Castroville, Texas. Another group

of cadets presented the colors at the Medina Valley High School pep rally. Cadet Beka Jones and Cadet Theresa Gonzales performed a dual exhibition drill for the pep rally. In the afternoon, the color guard presented the colors at the Medina Valley High School volleyball game. Another color guard team went to Lytle,

Texas, to present the colors before the Lytle versus Dilly high school football game. At the Medina Valley Monterey versus Mexico High School football game a special pre-game POW/MIA ceremony was conducted by the cadets with the presentation of colors and raising the Panther stadium flags. ■

## Cadets honor past heros

TX-882, William Howard Taft High School

**T**he senior cadets of the TX-882 attended a POW/MIA ceremony Sept. 16 sponsored by the South Texas Veterans Health Care System - Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

The cadets presented the colors, handed out POW/MIA pins and escorted World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War POWs.

The corps commander, Cadet Samantha Rodriguez, gave a tribute to all the men and women who serve

and have served in the military.

This is the third year TX-882 has been selected to serve the annual ceremony that honors these heroes from the past whose sacrifices have secured the freedoms and opportunities we have today. ■

# Cadets hold annual POW/MIA ceremony

**By Cadet Chris Del Campo**

Det. 770, Clemson University, S.C.

**D**et. 770 held a ceremony Sept. 22 to remember our nation's prisoners and those missing in action.

The ceremony, organized and hosted by the Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr. Squadron of the Arnold Air Society, opened with the traditional posting of the colors, the national anthem and an invocation. Following the opening services, the Clemson's Company C-4 of the Pershing Rifles began their POW/MIA ceremony.

A slow procession led the Pershing Rifles cadets to a small round table, symbolically arranged to honor the POW/MIAs purity, frailty, fate and family.

Each year, Det. 770 invites a speaker to come and address an audience about their experiences as a prisoner of war. This year, William Funchess honored the detachment with his account of the Korean War. Two years after being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army, Mr. Funchess was assigned to fight in Korea.

The former lieutenant was captured Nov. 4, 1950, after being shot in the foot. As winter set in the country, he marched for three weeks, stumbling on his wounded foot – those who could not walk were shot.

He continued to tell the cadets about the inhumane conditions under which the North Koreans forced him to live in and strategies he used to survive. Even though the war of-

ficially ended July 27, 1953, Korean officials considered him a war criminal for unknown reasons. On Sept. 6, he was released from captivity.

Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Funchess received hospital care and surgery on his wounded foot. He was discharged from the Army after five years of service.

Clemson University also has three other graduates who were prisoners of war in Korea: one died in captivity, and the other two were released (both are now deceased.) Mr. Funchess has written a book about his ordeal, "Korea POW: A Thousand Days of Torment, November 4, 1950-September 6, 1953."

After a standing ovation, the service continued with a candle ceremony held by Arnold Air Society

representatives. Six cadets each lit a candle, as the master of ceremonies narrated the Code of Conduct. The simple ceremony stressed the importance of the six Articles of the Code of Conduct to America's soldiers.

A cadet placed a large candle inside of a bamboo cage built by the ROTC cadets. Constructed of all natural materials, the cage contained a service coat that lacked a name and rank, which symbolized the reality that any soldier can be captured – regardless of rank, background or occupation.

The candle inside the cage represented the purity of a POW/MIA's heart and his ever-enduring spirit. Each hour, two cadets guarded the cage for 24 hours to honor the POW/MIAs. ■



*Courtesy photo*

*Arnold Air Society representatives light a candle, as the master of ceremonies reads the Code of Conduct, Sept. 22.*

# Tri-service POW/MIA service

Det. 930, Marquette University, Wis.

Pride, commitment and honor: characteristics found in young men and women across the nation preparing themselves to faithfully serve their country. These individuals acknowledge their predecessors and that same loyal nature which they carried, particularly in those who have fallen in the line of duty.

Air Force ROTC, Army ROTC and Navy ROTC cadets of Marquette University organized and participated in a memorial service to honor the heroic men and women who served before them.

Det. 930 cadets also participated in presenting the

Colors for Division I athletic events and award ceremonies, putting on a POW/MIA vigil and volunteering for various community service activities throughout the academic year.

As Air Force ROTC cadets of Det. 930 remember the dedication of those who militarily served before, they actively serve in the community now to prepare themselves for their time of duty – a time when they can carry their pride, commitment and honor with them in hopes of leaving an impression on the future generation of leaders to walk in their footsteps. ■



*Courtesy photo*

*Tri-ROTC Color Guard members Air Force ROTC Cadet Jarod Blanchette, Navy ROTC Midshipman Lucas Ward and Army ROTC Cadet Christyn Gaa prepare to raise the Colors for the memorial service of the events of September 11, 2001.*



# Fighting Falcon

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and has proven itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. It provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the United States and allied nations. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin D. Pyle)

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